

Application No.: 09/922048
Docket No.: SS3060USNA

Page 2

Amendments to Claims

Claims 1 -- 12 (cancelled).

13 (original). A method for changing the orientation of fibers in a nonwoven web produced by hydroentangling wherein a portion of the fibers are oriented in substantially the machine direction and a portion of the fibers are oriented in substantially the cross-machine direction comprising the steps of

(a) providing a first plurality of fluid jets offset at an appreciable angle from the perpendicular with respect to the web,

(b) applying a plurality of fluid streams from the jets of step (a) onto a surface of the nonwoven web at a pressure sufficient to move the fibers into a different position wherein the streams form a substantially coplanar curtain,

(c) providing a first plurality of nonangled fluid jets,

(d) applying a first plurality of fluid streams from the first plurality of nonangled jets onto the nonwoven web of step (b), wherein the streams form a substantially coplanar curtain

(e) providing a second plurality of fluid jets offset at an appreciable angle from the perpendicular with respect to the web,

(f) applying a plurality of fluid streams from the jets of step (e) onto the nonwoven web of step (d) at a pressure sufficient to move the fibers into a different position wherein the streams form a substantially coplanar curtain,

(g) providing a second plurality of nonangled jets,

(h) applying a plurality of fluid streams from the second plurality of nonangled jets onto the nonwoven web of step (f), wherein the streams form a substantially coplanar curtain.

14 (withdrawn). A jet strip having at least one row of a plurality of closely spaced holes therein angled at least about 5 degrees from the vertical and such that the aggregate of individual fluid streams issuing from each of the holes effectively forms a curtain of fluid.